in one go in Chennai. The implementation of CAS ran into operational difficulties in the metro cities, owing to a deep divide among the stakeholders, *i.e.* the broadcasters, multi-service operators and local cable operators, impinging on consumer's interest. This led to the suspension of implementation of CAS in all the four metro cities in February 2004. However, CAS is currently under implementation in Chennai city on the strength of a Madras High Court Order.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir, The Telecom Regulary Authority of India (TRAI) on 1.10.2004 submitted its recommendations on the issues relating to Broadcasting and Distribution of TV Channels, which *inter-alia*, covers the implementation of CAS. TRAI's recommendations, which are available on its website (www.trai.gov.in), are under examination in consultation with States/UTs and other stakeholders. Moreover, the issue of implementation of CAS is *sub judice*. No time frame can be given for the final decision in the matter.

**Losses to entertainment industry due to piracy**

†1495. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that entertainment industry in India is incurring heavy losses due to piracy and all the efforts by Government to prevent this has proved to be a failure;

(b) if so, whether the higher rates of entertainment are the root cause for this and SIMCON has supported to cut down these rates;

(c) if so, by when Government would accept the recommendations of SIMCON and take concrete steps to stop piracy; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (d) According to the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) the revenue loss from film piracy is about Rs. 1200 crores annually. As far as the Music Industry is concerned, the Indian Music Industry (IMI) has informed that the size of the music industry has fallen from Rs. 1000 crores in 1999 to Rs. 500 crores in 2004 due to piracy.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains, *inter alia,* legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

Apart from this, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several steps to fight piracy in the film sector like steps taken to sensitize the public through a film on piracy, an effort to sensitize police officers by initiating a training course for them about copyright issues in the entertainment sector, by taking up the case for exemption of CDs from excise duty in a bid to reduce the price gap between genuine and pirated products, making amendment in the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act prohibiting the cable operator from showing programmes without proper license from the copyright holder etc. Such efforts are made on a continuous basis.

(b) and (c) In the recently concluded 25th State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON) discussions were held, *inter alia,* on the issue of piracy. High entertainment tax rates have been recognized as one of the factors leading to piracy in the film sector and during the Conference, there was consensus on the need to bring down the ceiling on entertainment tax levels to 25-30%.

**Common FM infrastructure**

1496. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to create a common FM infrastructure in nine cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have allowed FDI in this sector; and